

"What Is News?"

Essay of Mrs. E. C. Morris, of Jetersville, which was awarded first prize at the recent meeting of The Times-Dispatch Correspondents' Association in Richmond.

The term news is more intelligently understood perhaps from illustrations than from any abstract definition. Primarily, it usually carries with it the idea of recent occurrence, and it always has reference to facts or events which have not been previously presented to one's knowledge.

A trivial affair, if connected with persons holding high positions, or even those who have gained notoriety by crime, often becomes news items of considerable interest. When Hooker Washington dined with the President of the United States almost every secular paper in the country had a story in regard to it; whereas, if that same negro had eaten dinner with some poor Northern family who had settled down here in Virginia no attention would have been paid to the circumstance. A reporter visits the cell of a condemned criminal and makes a note of every article of food eaten by the poor wretch in his last supper; the next morning one reads this menu as news in the daily paper.

Again, all incidents which strongly appeal to the emotions, or which deeply arouse the curiosity, vanity or admiration of men, may be classed as news in their first representation to the public. Heroic deeds are always read with emotions of pleasure; therefore these often become the subjects of most entertaining stories.

Under this head may be included freaks of nature, wonderful inventions and discoveries, also donations to institutions of learning or charity.

The rapid progress of certain sections and cities along industrial and educational lines is not to be ignored as subject matter for the news writer—witness the entertaining and instructive articles from the pen of Mr. Woodson.

Sporting news possesses a strong fascination for a large number of readers, as is evidenced by the amount of space given to accounts of baseball, athletic races and other things of like nature.

Fluctuations in the stock and produce markets, foreign and domestic, are items of news, especially to that class of individuals known as speculators.

Everybody likes to know what everybody else is doing; therefore each little town paper has its column of local news, and every big daily its page of social news and gossip, which are often the very first things read by many.

Marriages and deaths are eagerly scanned by a large majority of people, both being of intense interest to those by whom the parties are known either personally or by reputation; the higher the rank or social position of the parties concerned, the wider the circle of interest.

Robberies, murders, suicides, tragedies of all kinds represent the strongest types of violated law, hence the prominence these subjects receive at the hands of news editors and correspondents; of these, suicides take the highest rank, since it is the direct violation of the strongly implanted principle of self-preservation.

Great conflagrations, floods, wrecks, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, and especially if they involve great loss of life or property, become subjects of interest not only for reasons already mentioned, but also from their very terribleness.

National affairs of all kinds—the doings of Congress and State Legislatures, the movements of our armies and navies, and even of our high officials themselves—are given conspicuous places on the pages of our dailies. Presidential elections, perhaps, occupy the highest rank in this whole category, since they are the most interesting outcome to some extent, and added to this is that natural eagerness to see the result of a race in which the participants are the representatives of two or more political parties.

Scarcely less important are State, municipal and county elections, in which there are not such a large number of people concerned, but here the interest itself is correspondingly more intense.

Our dailies are constantly in receipt of information by cable or Associated Press of something like the following: "Pope Pius X. died at 9:30 o'clock this morning while in conversation with Cardinal Gibbons." "An attempt was made on the life of the Mikado about noon today." Then come reports from London and Liverpool stock markets; information received in this manner is termed "foreign news," and is usually world-wide in point of interest.

The most intensely exciting, and that which is most eagerly sought, is that which is called "news from the seat of war." Imagine this great republic in the throes of a civil conflict; a great battle has been fought; mark how fiercely the crowd besieges the telegraph office, the telephone, the bulletin board, and the newspaper. Who was defeated? How many killed? And a number of other questions indicative of the greatest concern, for here we have the most important earthly events combined with the most intense interest, and the same time an appeal to the emotions so powerful that all other news loses interest in comparison.

In conclusion, news may be briefly defined as "what the other fellow has not heard."

South Boston Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] South Boston, Va., November 19.—Dr. and Mrs. Samuel O. Jones, of Charlotte, N. C., are the guests of Mrs. M. A. Brooks, near this place.

Miss Hattie Holcomb, of Danville, is visiting Mrs. W. L. Jordan, at this place.

Miss Janie Lawson, of this place, is spending some time with friends at Rollins Institute, near this place.

Mrs. Petros, of Charlotte, N. C., who is remembered here as Miss Ethel Sneed, before her marriage, is visiting her mother, Mrs. M. W. Sneed, at this place.

Mrs. W. H. Childers has returned from a pleasant visit to Richmond.

Mrs. E. R. Standfield, of Memphis, Tenn., is the guest of her sister, Mrs. G. J. Hunt, on Main Street. This is her first visit to Virginia.

Cobham Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Cobham, Va., November 19.—A L. Everett, of Kilmorck, gave a delightful stag dinner recently. The color scheme was yellow and green, being artistically carried out in champagne and other beverages. Those present were: Harry Hancock, E. H. Joell, E. C. Money, E. C. Page, Leola W. Shackelford, Jr., Dr. R. B. Shackelford, and W. E. Money, and A. L. Vavre.

Mrs. Tenal and Amelia Moore are entertaining a house party at their home, "Belvedere," at Berkeley.

George Watt, a young lawyer of Philadelphia, has been a recent visitor at "Belvedere."

Mrs. and Mrs. George R. Hanchett have moved into their new home, "Forest Lodge."

Princess Pierre Troubetskoy is staying at Castle Hill during the hunting season.

Mrs. Hugh Morrison and family, of Richmond, are visiting at "Forest Lodge."

Miss Bolling, of Staunton, has been



Davenport
for only
\$16.98

Bedroom Suits
for only
\$16.48

Wardrobes
with
Glass Doors,
\$19.98

Sideboards
for only
\$9.98

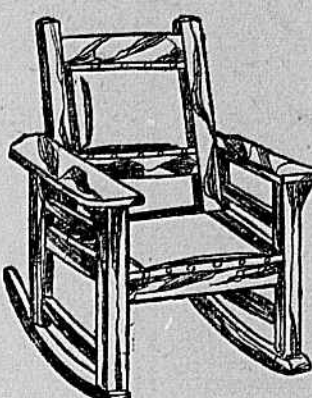
Pedestal Dining
Tables
for only
\$9.98

**We Trust
You**

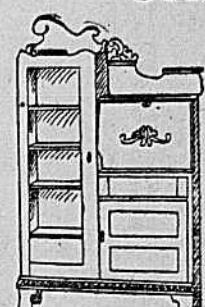
**Our "Special" Chase
Leather Couch**

This is unquestionably one of the handsomest Couches ever sold for this price. It has quarter-sawn and highly polished golden oak frame, is upholstered in genuine leather, has retempered steel springs and diamond tufted top, only **\$10.48**

**We Furnish Your Home,
We Make It Bright,
We Do It Right and the
Cost Is Light.**

**Mission Rocker**

The simplicity of design, heavy stock and broad upholstered seat of this Mission Rocker make it a desirable and comfortable piece of furniture—**\$4.48**

**Combination Case**

Here is a Combination Case that has all the conveniences of a bookcase and writing desk. It is made of carefully selected, highly polished golden oak, and will add beauty and convenience to any library—**\$15.75**

Hopkins Furniture Co.,

7 and 9 W. Broad Street.

The Cheapest Cash or Credit Store in the City

More than likely you'll be entertaining Thanksgiving visitors and you want your home to look just as comfortable and attractive as possible to them—you want "to put your best foot forward." How about your dining table—is it old and rickety, and are you badly in need of a new one? Have you enough dining-room chairs? Or perhaps it's a china closet that you want, or a buffet, or furniture for some other room. Now is the time to secure the needed pieces—for Thanksgiving Day will be here before you realize it.

We've prepared ourselves for a great Thanksgiving demand. Bought unusually large quantities and broad varieties of everything we expect to have a call for at this season, and, as usual, we have some extra values to offer you—big money-saving chances. We want to join in the general thanksgiving and show our appreciation of the generous patronage that has been ours during the past twelve months, and feel that we could not do it more successfully than to enable our patrons to save still more money. You can depend on the quality of these goods. You'll find our styles abreast of the times. Our prices will more than please you.

Miss Maude Miller has been the recent guest of Mrs. Withers Miller in Richmond.

Miss Ayliffe Wherry has been visiting Miss Emmie Wherry in Richmond.

Mrs. and Mrs. E. T. Watkins, who have been living here for the past year, have been transferred by conference to Petersburg.

Rev. E. I. Wellford and Mrs. Wellford, of Newport News, are at "Bough Westra" for a few days.

Miss Mary Kemp is spending the week with Mrs. H. E. Tallaferra.

Mrs. Hogan and children have returned from a visit to Richmond.

Dr. E. C. S. Tallaferra, of Norfolk, spent several days in Gloucester during the week on professional business.

Dr. William R. Jaeger left on Monday for West Virginia.

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been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Bernard Early, for several weeks, has returned home.

Prof. Scott, Miss Scott, Miss Nettie Day, Miss Alwood, Miss Mabey Otey, attended the teachers' meeting held at Bedford last week.

Jesse Talley, of Richmond, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Talley.

Mrs. Anthony Efferidge has been quite unwell for several days.

J. N. Walker has returned home from a trip to Pointdexter.

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knows that there is no more exquisite revenge than keeping a man bound to her when he wants to be at the side of another.

Jealousy, too, may survive both love and respect. A woman's love for her spouse may perish, her respect for him wither under the blight of his unworthiness. But his interest in another may still stir her jealousy; may, indeed, fan it to a dangerous blaze.

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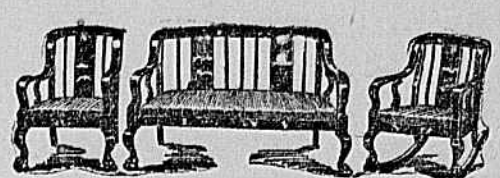
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**This Handsome Parlor Suit**

Frames are made of carefully selected stock, mahoganyized and highly polished has tempered steel springs and chase leather upholstery. Don't let an opportunity like this pass of securing a Handsome Parlor Suit for this price... **\$14.98**

Special

Remember, you can take advantage of our dignified credit system for these Specials as well as our regular stock.

Centre Table

This Table is made of beautifully flaked, rich golden oak, highly polished and worth double the price we are selling it for this week—**\$1.65**



WE TRUST YOU

Brass Beds,
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50-lb. Mattress,
Our Royal
Special,
\$6.98

Chiffonniers,
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Art Squares
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Carpets at, the
yard,
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RANGES!
The largest assortment in the city.
We handle only the best,
\$26.98

Why She Should Be No Ruskin

BY ADA PATTERSON

That a New York woman who had separated from her husband, and who said her love for him was dead beyond resurrection, has refused to divorce him so that he may marry a woman who is not his wife, is a story which has stirred a great many writing and talking folk to comment. There is nothing radically unwomanlike or inhuman about this attitude of hers. She says her attitude is "within the law," and that since she is within the law, and she is at peace, the rest of the world may guess all why she will not make it possible for her husband to marry another woman.

She has allowed us all the guesses we want, so here are a few: